HONZUKI NO GEKOKUJOU

by Miya Kazuki & Suzuka

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Honzuki no Gekokujou ch07

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A few months have already gone by since I became "Main"—
Full blown winter has come to town.
ヒュオオ…
11°C
11°C

...It's dark.
Chapter 7
Winter Sweets

11°C
11°C

Haa...

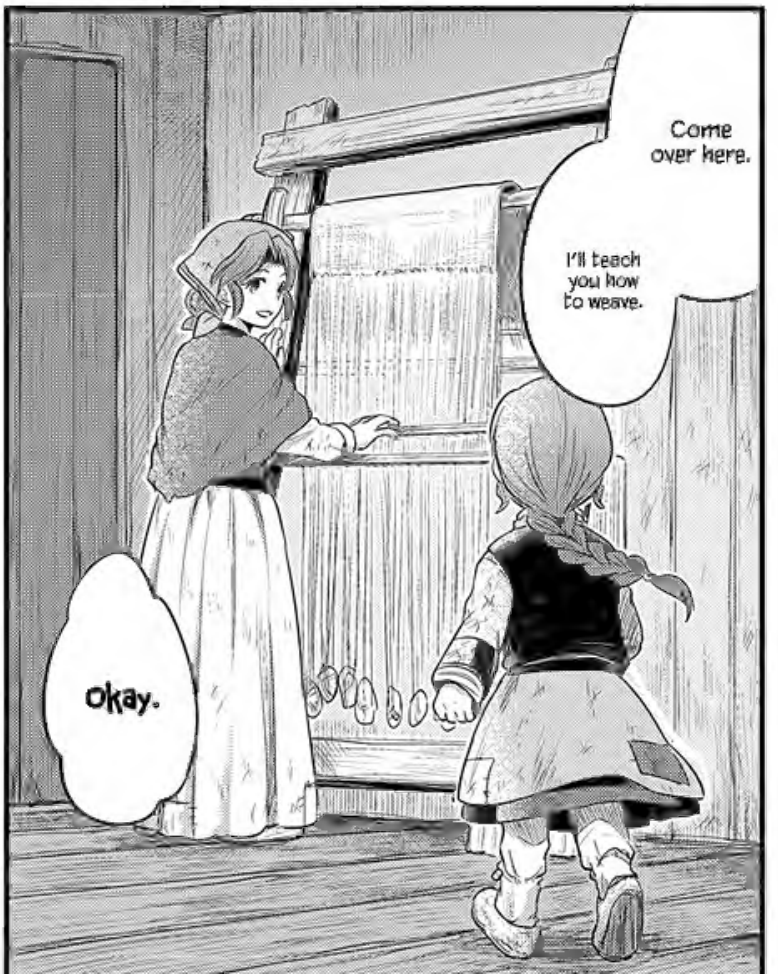
Even though it's daytime right now...
Well there's a blizzard, so it can't be helped.
シャッ
シャッ
Hey, Mom.
Are all the homes this dark?
Mm...
I hear the houses that have a bit of money have a number of lamps...
But we only have one here.
Then let's use that lamp.
We want to ration the oil, so we're using it as little as possible.
プチン

So it's going to be like this all winter.
I'm not even reading, but my eyesight's going to go bad.

We'd be in trouble if the winter dragged out, right?
Ugh...

First, you get the warp ready.
You place the thread like this...
Did Turi want to be an apprentice seamstress?
She's serious about learning.

You have your baptism ceremony, so you have to learn how to do various tasks, Turi.

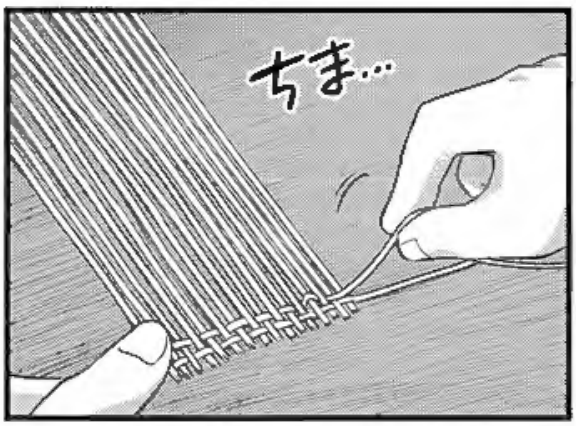

Come over here.
I'll teach you how to weave.
Okay.

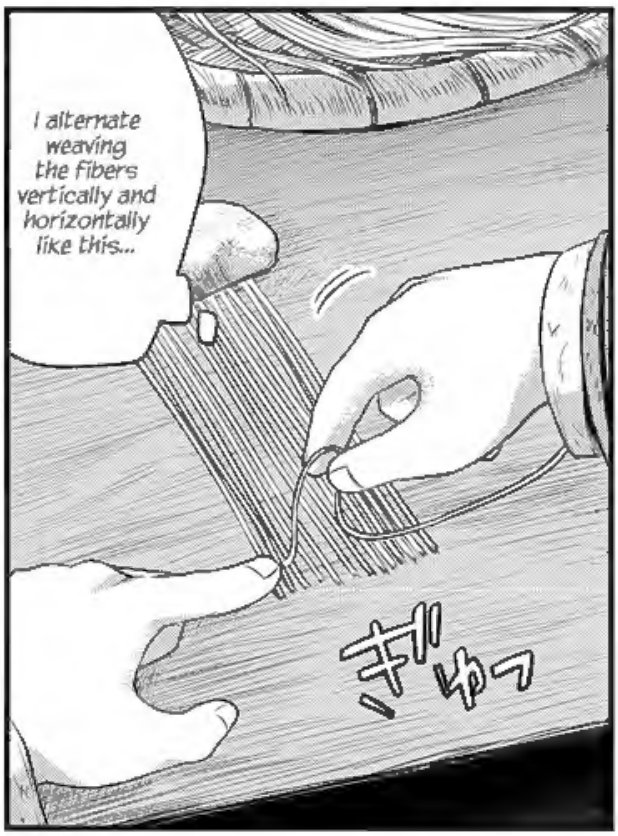
If I plait the fibers, I'm sure it'll turn into something similar to paper.

I'll make my imitation papyrus to take a step towards my ambitions, too.
ドサッ

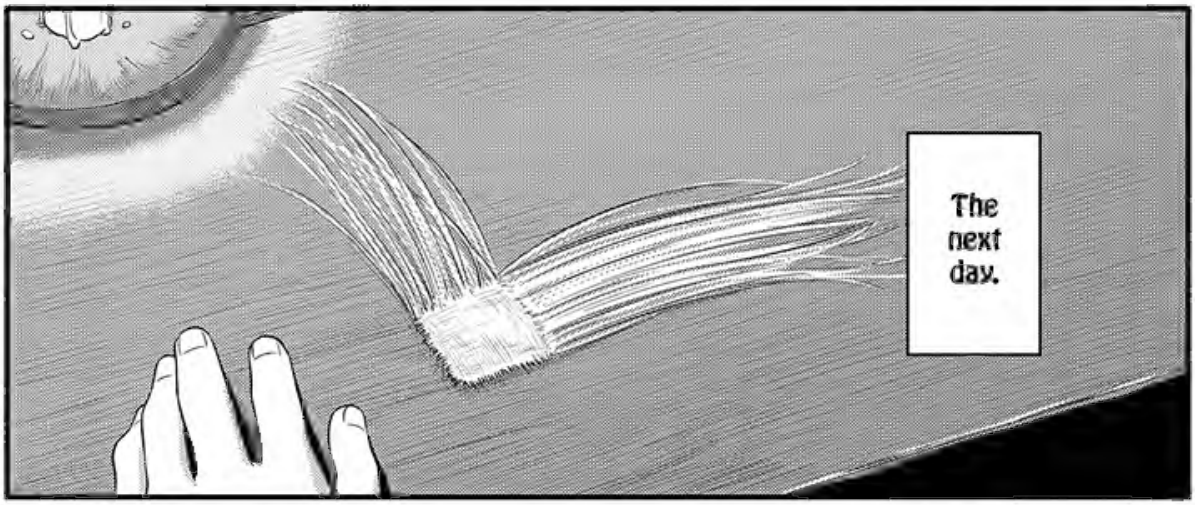
Let's get started!
I won't lose to the ancient Egyptians.
カァン

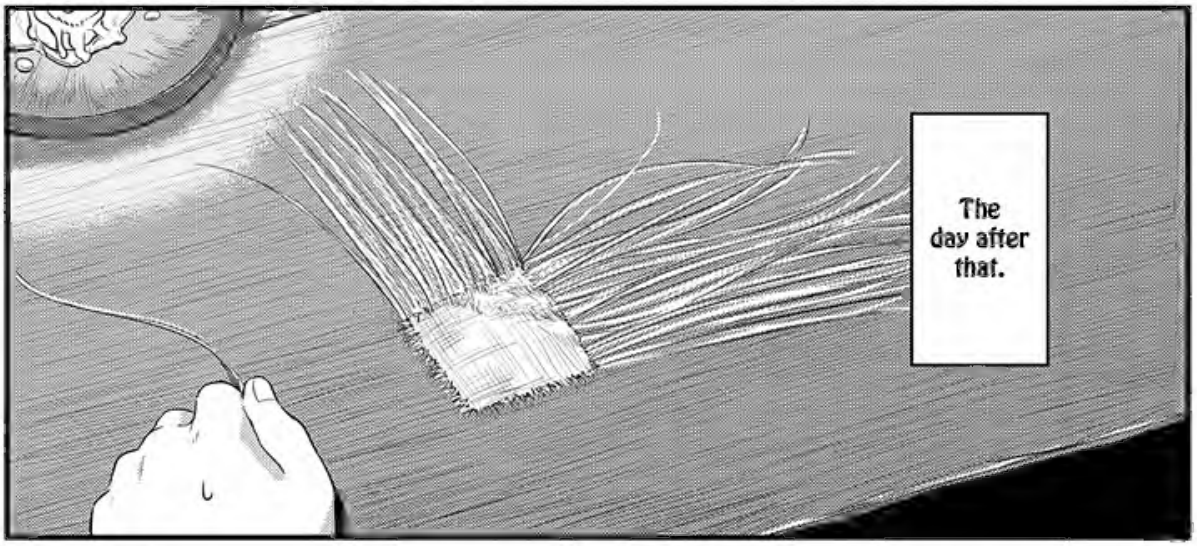
ちま…


ちま…


I alternate weaving the fibers vertically and horizontally like this...
ギュッ

Wow, it's so detailed it's straining my eyes.
ちま
ちま
Main, if you have time to play around, get to making baskets.
Okay.
When I'm free.
Ugh, redo it...
Ah, I made a mistake!
Hey, what have you been doing there?
Hmm?
"Imitation papyrus".
ARGH!!
AHH, I MESSED UP AGAIN!
Main... it's not getting very big.
I KNOW!


The next day.


The day after that.

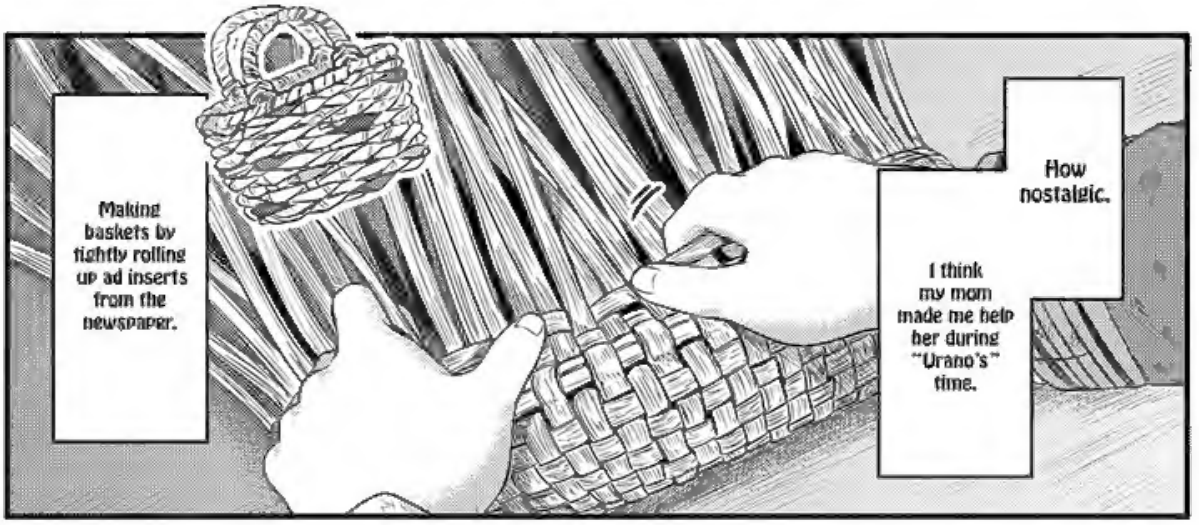
.....

Hey...

Hey, Main.
You've been doing this for the past couple days, but what is that supposed to be?

Maïn?
Haa-
ANCIENT EGYPTIANS, I LOSE!!
I CAN'T ANYMORE!
I CAN'T DO THIS!
THAT'S ENOUGH, MAÏN!
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO PLAY WITH GRASS, GO WEAVE BASKETS INSTEAD!
My papyrus plan...
I don't know how many days it'll take just to make this into the size of a postcard.
Every single day, just a tiny bit at a time...
Ugh...
I don't know what you're talking about, but that's a failed project, right?
But baskets won't turn into books...
.....

I'll give up on the imitation papyrus.
Some things are impossible to make alone...
...Okay.
JUST MAKE BASKETS ALREADY!
Here.
Should I teach you how to do it?.
Turi,
I'm going to weave baskets too, so give me some materials.
No, it's okay. I know how.
Eh?

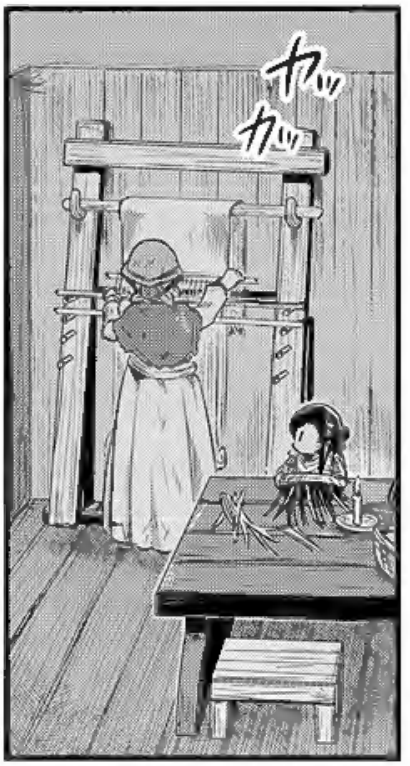

Making baskets by tightly rolling up ad inserts from the newspaper.
How nostalgic.
I think my mom made me help her during "Urano's" time.

.....

I never thought I'd see the day where that kind of experience would come in handy.

That thread's pretty thin.

Is that Turi's dress?
That's right.


カッ
カッ

You're getting the dress ready during winter, even though it's in the summer?
Won't Turi grow?

That's because Turi's baptism ceremony is in the summer
If the fabric isn't thin, it'll be hot and problematic for her, right?

The problem is that there's such a difference in height between you and Turi that she can't hand it down to you.
だぼっ
It can be altered a bit, so it's okay.

Why not??
Eh
Beautiful?

You have to learn weaving soon too, Main.
No one will see you as beautiful unless you're skilled in sewing.

What should we do next year?
Hmm...
Sounds like a problem.

I'd weave all day if I could use woven cloth as a replacement for parchment
Ah~ I'll never be beautiful.
Making clothes for the family is both important for appearance and practicality, right?
So sewing and cooking are some of the things you have to know to be beautiful.
That's amazing, Mai!
Maybe you can be an apprentice craftsman in the future.
I don't know about that...
...Phew, I think I'm done.
She's upset?!
EVEN THOUGH I'M THE OLDER SIS...
...WHY ARE YOU SO GOOD, MAI?!

You're good at lots of other things I can't do yet, right?
I've been doing it every time you went in the forest, so I just got kind of good at it.
Old lady Gerda taught me while I was with her!
Umm—... Right!
...I see.
I ALMOST WANT TO SAY THAT I'M JEALOUS OF HOW YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT
UMM— UMM—
わた
わた
Yeah.
If it's you, you'll be good in no time.
Then I'm going to make a lot during winter and get better than you, Main.

Egyptian civilization was no good? ...So what's next?
Obviously, it's the Mesopotamian civilization!
...Even if I can make baskets well, all I feel is emptiness.
Because what I want, is books.
Hurray, Mesopotamian civilization!!
...Alright, cuneiform.
It's clay tablets!
Making a clay tablet, carving in letters.
And baking it in a kiln should be manageable, even for a kid.
Okay, let's go with this!

It's clay tablet time once the snow melts and spring comes!
EW?
IT STOPPED SNOWING. YAY!
IT STOPPED SNOWING.
Come on, come on, get up

Look how nice the weather is!
Whoa, it's cold...
I'm going to hibernate, so wake me when it's spring.
NO!
You have to hurry and eat breakfast too, Main.
We have to hurry!
Come on, Dad. You're off work today, right?
Alright, alright.
...What's "paru"?
See you later.
we'll bring back lots of paru!
We'll be back then.

COME EAT BREAKFAST IF YOU'RE UP!
MAMI!
...Okay.
Well, whatever. I'm going to sleep some more.
We're back—
That's great.
Haa
we were able to get three paru!
The bowl's ready.

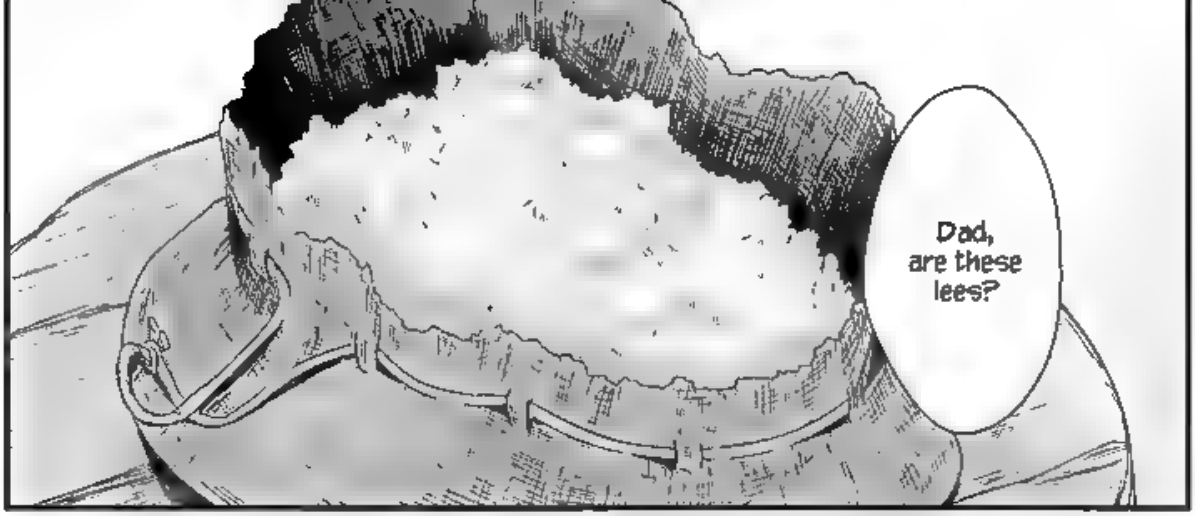
Main, can you get one of those branches?
That's paru fruit?
It's all white.
This?
Thanks.
POOT
Hold the bowl, okay?
Okay.

Paru is amazing.
Its juice is sweet and delicious, and you can extract oil from it.
wow
what a sweet smell!
You know,
You probably don't know this because you never went,
But it's a lot of work picking paru.
If this fruit's so amazing, there must be a lot of competition for it.
And the strained ones are used as feed for livestock.
You can only get them in the snow on a really clear day, so the people from town head for the forest early in the morning.
That's right

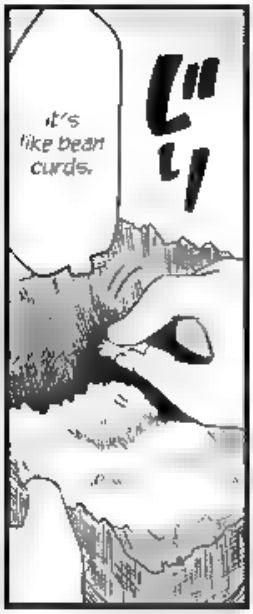
To pick the fruit, you have to heat up the branch to make it soft...
しゅっ
But you can never use fire on top of the paru tree,
Because the tree has a mysterious power that makes it disappear.
A mysterious power...?
So you have no choice but to take off your gloves and warm it up with your bare hands.
YOUR BARE HANDS, ON A COLD DAY LIKE THIS?!
If you did it, you'd catch a cold right away, Mairi.
You can't pick it after it gets warm in the afternoon?
That won't work.
You can only pick paru between morning and noon.
トロ
トロ
There's a time limit...?
Right.

Once it grows really tall, the tree swings its branches like a woman swings her hair.
Flip, flip, like that.
After the leaves start to ring, the paru tree grows taller and taller.
Longer and longer and flip flip...?
Once it becomes noon and the sun rises and shines its light down,
The tree sparkles and shakes itself up...
Then the leaves begin to rustle and make ringing noises.
Sparkle and rustle?
Nope. I can't imagine it at all.
...That's one mysterious tree.
ピューン
...?
In the end, whoosh, the fruit that weren't picked go flying off,
And the paru tree melts and disappears.
GLUG
GLUG
Should we drink a litt e after we move it into the jar?
There, all done.

Here.
!
It's like thick coconut milk!
It's precious fruit juice that we drink through out the winter, so don't drink it all at once.
Ugh.
Okay.
Give me some, too.
This is the taste of happiness!

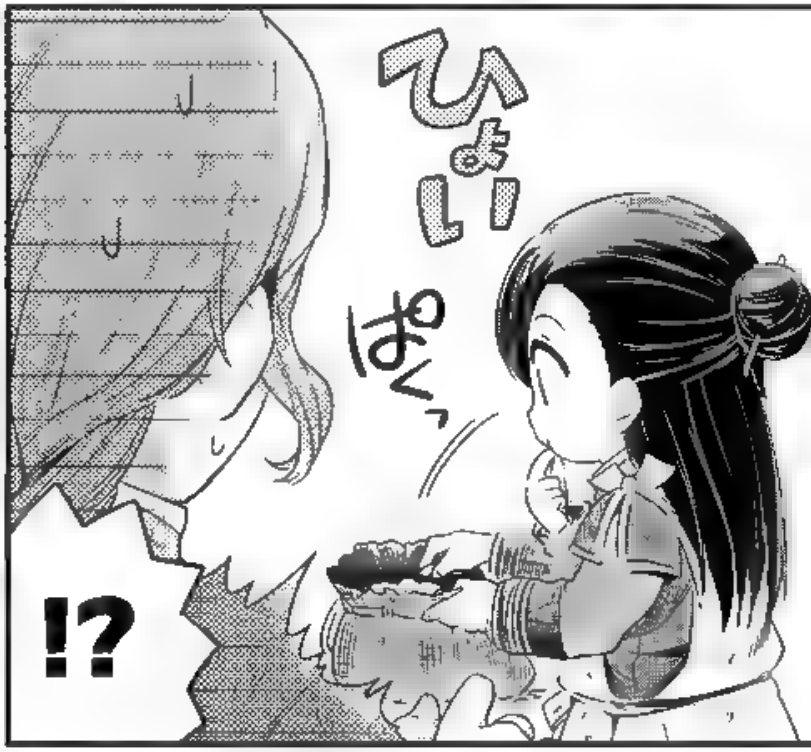

Dad, are these lees?

It smells good. I wonder if you can eat it.


It's like bean curds.

Yeah.
Go take them to Lutz's place and exchange it for eggs.

MAIN, THAT'S BIRD FEED!!


!?

Eh?
You can eat this.
...Yup.
Mom.
Turi.
Can you exchange this for eggs, please?
Do you have any meat instead?
My brother and the others stole mine and I'm hungry.
We already have enough feed.

...Then why not eat this?
HUH?!
WHO'S GOING TO EAT BIRD FEED?!!
It's edible, you know.
But if you over-cook it,
It gets completely wrung out and becomes inedible.
THAT'S SUCH A WASTE!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S FOOLISH ENOUGH TO EAT SOMETHING YOU WORKED SO HARD TO COLLECT, HUH?
But you have enough feed for the birds, right?
Then isn't it better to use it to fill up human bellies?
You know...
...Umm, Lutz.
ちぃ ちぃ

You may not believe it, but you really can eat it.
...I was shocked at how delicious it was.
Eh, seriously?
YOU LET HER FEED YOU BIRD FEED?
How rude.
Here.
Maybe it's faster to actually do it.
I do...
Lutz, do you have any paru juice left?
Yup.
It's sweet and delicious.
Here.

Lutz, say ahh.
Right?
Sweet?
Delicious?
...It's good.
Mmm, it's pretty sweet and delicious, right?

GYAHH!
WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE!
GIVE IT HERE, LUTZ!
SERIOUSLY?!
...if it's here at your house Lutz, I can cook it to make it a bit more delicious.
Brothers are scary!!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
LEAVE IT TO US!!
I don't have any strength or stamina.
But I might not be able to make it unless I get help.
Ah...

Zaska and Zeke, you guys heat up the iron plate in the oven.
Then I'll give you instructions, so you guys follow them.
spatula, and a whisk
you got two eggs, milk, and butter.
じゃが
じゃが
I'm going to use a little yuzu juice for
serving
It wouldn't be fair if it was just Lutz, right?
Alright

Now, I'll show you how to do it.
First, oil the plate...
じゅっ
Yeah, okay.
ふっ ふっ
どろ
When it bubbles like this, you flip it.
Let me see the spatula.

せーの
Yeah?
Main, it's dangerous for you, so I'll take over.
Ohh.
...Eh? Bean... what?
Ah, umm-
Simple paru cakes!!
ほカ
Tada-!!
ほカ
"Simple hot cakes with bean curds"!

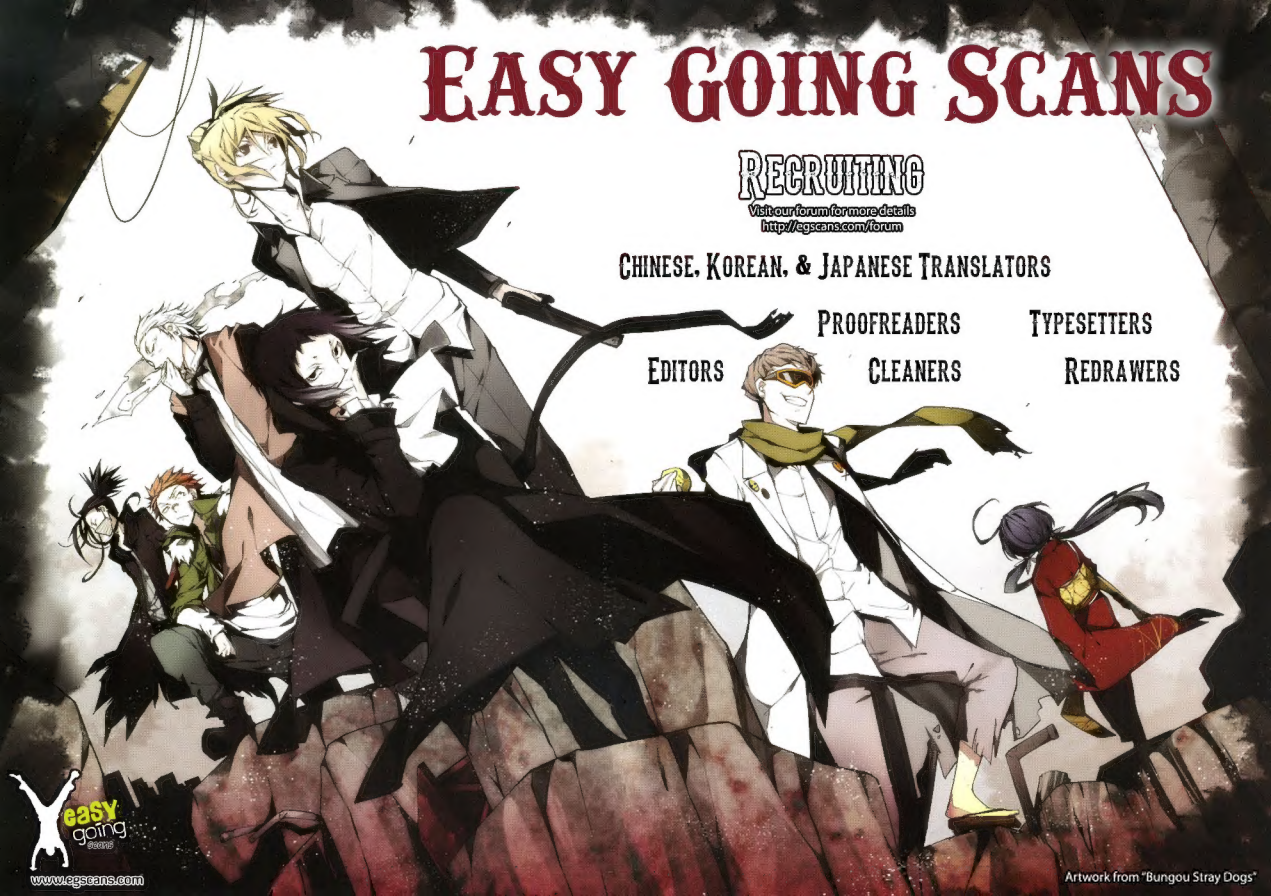
I'm glad you guys like it.
Here, Turi
LET'S PRY MORE!
WHAT IS THIS?!!
SO GOOD!
はぐはぐ
This is simple to make and it fills you up, right?
かぷかぷ
It does.
Main, you're amazing.
じぃ…
It's good.

There are other dishes you can make with paru lees, but I can't make them.
Well you don't have any strength or stamina, Main.
もぐもぐ
I'll make them for you if you teach me how.

Because you're almost like a goddess, Main, teaching me how to make something this delicious...

ぱっ
Really?!

I'll help you out, Main.
Chapter 7 Winter Sweets END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